

the embodiment of Captain Flynn's life. May we all use his wisdom, selflessness, and integrity as a beacon of direction and a source of true enlightenment for many, many years to come. Indeed, may God bless to all of our memories the tremendous life and legacy of Captain Samuel C. Flynn, Jr.

CONGRATULATING MICHELLE  
CUNNINGHAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle Cunningham for receiving an Outstanding Community Service Award from the 16th Annual University of North Texas Latinos in the 21st Century Conference. Ms. Cunningham was selected as an individual whose contributions foster and enhance education for Hispanic students and promotes community values.

The Latinos in the 21st Century Conference was held on October 14, 2006 at UNT. The theme was "Reaching La Raza: Catering to the Future." The conference promotes higher education among Latinos/Hispanics/Chicanos in the North Texas region and discusses issues relevant to this growing population. The UNT Division of Equity and Diversity who works to develop a supportive environment for a culturally diverse faculty, staff, and student body at the University of North Texas sponsored the conference.

Michelle Cunningham is the Community & International Relations Coordinator for the City of Denton Economic Development. She has been employed with the City for seven years. Factors leading to Ms. Cunningham's selection included her long-term support of educational outreach initiatives sponsored by the UNT Center for Outreach and Community Involvement, her vocal advocacy for educating Denton's underrepresented students, and her mentorship and leadership of Hispanic students and families. The Denton LULAC Council has also recognized her initiatives and she was a nominee for the Dallas region LULAC woman of the year.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Ms. Michelle Cunningham on receiving this award and commend her dedication and desire to help her community.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENT  
OF ACTON ARCHIE

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the honor to meet an amazing young man from North Carolina, his name is Acton Archie. I wanted the opportunity to not only congratulate Archie, but to tell you about his life.

Too often we hear about the bad choices young people make and the decisions that lead them down a path to nowhere. Fortunately, Acton Archie made the right decisions, despite unimaginable obstacles, which has led him down the right path.

Growing up in Charlotte, Acton moved from one public housing development to another, he moved 12 times in 12 years. His father was murdered when he was just a child and his mother struggled with drug addiction. By 9th grade, Acton rarely attended school; he was surrounded by crime and drugs. He was on the verge of dropping out of school altogether when he was introduced to Communities in School, a program that helps young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life. Acton credits his grandmother, his strong faith in God and Communities in Schools for literally saving his life.

Acton not only finished high school, he graduated with a 3.8 GPA. He then went on to attend North Carolina State University where he recently graduated with a degree in Business Management. He will soon begin a career as a business analyst with the world's largest privately held software company.

Ten years ago, if someone would have told Acton that he would achieve so much, I doubt he would have believed them, but the wonderful thing is that he has achieved so much. I am certain even greater things are yet to come for this young man.

I would like to congratulate Acton Archie for his achievements, but I also want to congratulate Acton for the tremendous courage he has shown in overcoming barriers in his life. This young man is truly an inspiration to me, and I know he is an even greater inspiration to young kids who feel trapped by their situation in life.

May God Bless Action Archie and all who continue to overcome roadblocks in their lives to achieve what might have been seen at one time as the "Impossible Dream."

Thank you, Acton Archie.

HONORING RICHARD GORDON ON  
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Richard Gordon for his 43 years of service to First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Since he became involved with First Baptist in 1962, Rev. Gordon has helped the church grow as Rutherford County has grown. After four decades as pastor of First Baptist, Rev. Gordon is now teaching the children and grandchildren of some of the first people he taught there. But Rev. Gordon will give his last sermon to the congregation on Christmas Day.

Rev. Gordon's compassion extends beyond the church and into the community. He serves on the Murfreesboro Affordable Housing Advisory Board and Rutherford County Guidance Center Board. In addition, he has been involved with many national organizations, such as the NAACP, the United Ministerial Alliance and the National Baptist Congress.

In 1967, I attended one of Rev. Gordon's services for the first time. I know firsthand that his leadership and dedication will be deeply missed by his congregation. I also have a feeling that his service to the community will not end with his retirement. As Rev. Gordon says, "You don't retire from the ministry."

I commend Rev. Gordon for his 43 years with First Baptist Church. And I wish him all the best in his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO AUGUSTO  
VILLAREAL ACOSTA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Villareal Acosta is an economist and bookkeeper under a regime that bans truth and facts. As a student of truth, Mr. Villareal Acosta quickly joined the courageous opposition to demand human rights, democracy, and freedom from tyranny. Because he believes in freedom and because he actively and peacefully advocates for liberty, Mr. Villareal Acosta has been targeted by the despotic regime.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Villareal Acosta was arrested by the regime. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Villareal Acosta is languishing in the revolting, hellish gulag. However, being confined in these inhuman conditions has not stopped him from continuing to demand freedom and justice for the people of Cuba and his fellow political prisoners. Amnesty International reports that Mr. Villareal Acosta has participated in hunger strikes while imprisoned in Castro's dungeon. He has undertaken these strikes to bring attention to the repulsive squalor of the gulag, the lack of medical attention, and the barbaric punishment cells; all of his actions have been in defiance of the machinery of repression that has unjustly confined him in these repugnant conditions.

Mr. Speaker, it remains categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of tyrannical monsters. Here, under the dome that represents freedom and democracy, we must continue to demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism.

Let me be clear, the willful ignorance of Cuba's suffering under the Castro regime by much of the world's press and most of the international community, amounts to abetting the Castro dictatorship. Let us never forget, and always support, those who are struggling to liberate their people from the grip of tyranny. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Augusto Villareal Acosta and every prisoner of conscience locked in Castro's totalitarian gulag.

HONORING COACH BARRY  
ALVAREZ

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the coach of the University of Wisconsin football team who retires this year, Coach Barry Alvarez. In Barry Alvarez's 16 years as coach, the Wisconsin Badgers have gone from a 1-10 record in 1990 to three-time winners of